

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

-----110222Z 130824 /75-61

R 100155Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5814

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

ANEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 145

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR FJ

SUBJ: FIJIAN ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

REF: SUVA 1450

1. PRIME MIN RATU MARA HAS ANNOUNCED SECOND GENERAL ELECTION SINCE FIJIAN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE HELD FROM MARCH 19 TO APRIL 9. TWO WEEK POLLING PERIOD NECESSARY SINCE ELECTION OFFICIALS MUST TRAVEL TO REMOTE ISLANDS TO SUPERVISE VOTING.

2. PREDICTABLY, ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT PROVOKED CRIES OF UNFAIRNESS FROM BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES WHO HAD HOPED TO CAMPAIGN INTO NEXT MAY WHEN ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT'S MANDATE LAPSES. BUT WITH ALMOST SIX WEEKS TO GO, TIMING CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO CONSTITUTE SNAP ELECTION TO EXPLOIT ADMITTED WEAKNESSES OF OPPOSITION.

3. ALTHOUGH MAIN OPPOSITION, INDIAN DOMINATED NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY (NFP), REMAINS IN SOME DISARRAY IT HAS MANAGED

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NAME SOME TWENTY OF ITS CANDIDATES FOR THE 52-SEAT LOWER HOUSE. (UPPER HOUSE IS APPOINTED.) WHILE NFP HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL FACE ELECTIONS WITH UNITED FRONT, INFIGHTING CONTINUES AND TWO MAJOR FACTIONS CONTINUE MANEUVER FOR PARTY CONTROL.

4. ALLIANCE, THOUGH CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, CONTINUES LOOKING NERVOUSLY OVER SHOULDER AT NOISY FIJIAN NATIONAL PARTY

(FNP) WHOSE RACIST APPEALS STRIKE CHORD AMONG MANY ETHNIC FIJIANS. FNP MEANS TO CONTEST ALL FIJIAN COMMUNAL SEATS IN HOUSE, WHERE THEY MIGHT PICK UP LIMITED NUMBER NOW LIGHTLY HELD .

5. COMMENT: AS ELECTION APPROACHES, SMART MONEY REMAINS ON DECISIVE VICTORY FOR ALLIANCE, THOUGH NFP SHOULD MAKE REASONABLY GOOD SHOWING IF ONLY BECAUSE IT ALONE SEEN AS REPRESENTING EXCLUSIVELY INDIAN INTERESTS. THERE ARE SIDE BETS, HOWEVER, THAT FNP WILL ATTRACT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VOTES, IF NOT SEATS, AS VIRULENT SIGN OF ETHNIC FIJIAN PARTICULARISM.  
FLANEGIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SUVA00177  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 SUVA 1450  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIJIAN ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, FJ  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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